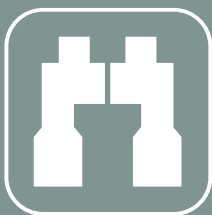


U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Bowdoin

*National Wildlife
Refuge*

Public Use Regulations



Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge is an extraordinary place for wildlife and people. Because it is a wildlife refuge, the needs of wildlife and habitat must come first. Regulations have been established to provide wildlife and their habitats with adequate protection. Please observe these regulations so that the Refuge will continue to be an extraordinary place for both you and wildlife to enjoy.

Welcome



This goose, designed by J.N. "Ding" Darling, has become the symbol of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Visitor Opportunities and Regulations

Visitors to Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) are welcome to enjoy wildlife-oriented recreation, which includes wildlife observation and photography, sightseeing, hiking, and hunting. To learn more about the Refuge, take a drive on the self-guided auto tour route that begins near the Refuge headquarters. Be sure to pick up an auto tour guide before heading out.

Except for the following Refuge-specific regulations, public use is permitted in accordance with all applicable State and Federal regulations.

- The Refuge is open for public use from dawn to dusk, except during hunting seasons when hunters are allowed **reasonable** time to access hunting areas when arriving before dawn and when leaving after dusk.
- The Refuge headquarters is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 am to 4:00 pm.
- Foot travel is allowed on all portions of the Refuge except in the railroad right-of-way or where otherwise posted.
- Motor vehicles are restricted to the auto tour route and designated parking areas. Refuge roads other than the auto tour route are closed to access by privately-owned vehicles. All terrain vehicles (ATVs) must be street legal.
- To avoid blocking traffic, please park in a designated parking area or pull off to the side of the auto tour route.

Visitor Opportunities and Regulations (continued)

- ATVs must abide by all vehicle regulations.
- Railroad lands within the Refuge boundaries are managed as part of the Refuge. For visitor safety, walking or driving along the railroad tracks or berm is prohibited.
- Snowmobiles may not be operated on the Refuge.
- Boating is permitted only during waterfowl hunting season.
- Possession of firearms is prohibited on the Refuge except during designated hunting seasons.
- Be considerate of wildlife. Keep your distance when viewing or photographing them.
- To protect wildlife and their young, dogs must be kept on leash from April 15 through August 15. At other times of the year, dogs must be under owner's control when not on a leash.
- Removal of animals, plants, natural objects, or historic artifacts is prohibited.
- Please do not litter. Carry out all trash and dispose of it properly
- Overnight camping (including self-contained camper units) is not allowed. Public camping areas are available in Malta and at Nelson Reservoir.
- If you observe a violation of Refuge regulations, please report it to a Refuge law enforcement officer, a Refuge staff member, or a State game warden.

Hunting Regulations for Bowdoin NWR

- ALL hunters must register EACH day upon arriving at the Refuge and when leaving. The hunter check station is located in the parking lot at Refuge headquarters. Harvest information and hunter use data are critical to the continuation of a quality hunting program at Bowdoin NWR.
- Waterfowl and upland game bird hunting are permitted on those portions of Bowdoin NWR indicated on the map. Steel, bismuth, tungsten, or other U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-approved nontoxic shot is required for all bird hunting on the Refuge.
- Big game hunting is NOT permitted on the Refuge. Further, the Refuge may not be used to access adjoining land for big game hunting. Possession of a big game animal on the Refuge, other than while in transport on a public road, is a violation. Using the Refuge to access adjoining land to retrieve a wounded big game animal is not allowed unless approved and accompanied by a Refuge employee or State game warden.
- All Refuge wildlife are protected, except those species for which hunting is specifically authorized.
- Firearms are prohibited in closed areas. If you must retrieve a dead or injured game bird from a closed area, do not carry your firearm with you.
- Shooting from roads is prohibited.

Hunting Regulations for WPAs

- Boating is allowed during waterfowl hunting season only. Boat motors are limited to a maximum of 10 horsepower to preserve aquatic vegetation and reduce damage to motors. A special use permit for using a larger motor must be obtained from the Refuge Manager.
- Hunters may not use air thrust boats.
- Decoys and boats may not be left unattended.
- Please dispose of all waste when cleaning birds. Not all Refuge visitors are hunters, and feather litter could be offensive to some.
- Predator hunting on the Refuge requires a Special Use Permit and must be approved by the Refuge Manager. Hunters must follow all State predator hunting rules and regulations. Consult the Refuge Manager for current regulations.
- Commercial outfitting is not permitted on Bowdoin NWR, Waterfowl Protection Areas, or satellite refuges.

Hunting and trapping are allowed on all Waterfowl Protection Areas (WPAs) associated with Bowdoin NWR, except Holm WPA. However, regulations for hunting and trapping on WPAs vary. For regulations specific to a particular WPA, contact the Refuge Manager..

Hunting Regulations for Satellite Refuges

There are four satellite refuges associated with Bowdoin NWR — Black Coulee NWR, Creedman Coulee NWR, Hewitt Lake NWR, and Lake Thibadeau NWR.

The following regulations apply to all four satellite refuges:

- Waterfowl hunting is permitted on designated areas of the Refuge subject to the following condition: Air-thrust boats and boats with motors greater than 10 horsepower are not permitted.
- Big game hunting and sport fishing are prohibited.

The following regulation applies at Creedman Coulee NWR, Hewitt Lake NWR, and Lake Thibadeau NWR:

- Upland game bird hunting is prohibited.

The following regulation applies at Black Coulee NWR only:

- Hunting of upland game birds is permitted on designated areas of the Refuge subject to the following condition: Hunters in the field will possess and use only nontoxic shot.

Accessibility Information

An accessible hunting/bird watching blind on Pearce WPA was built through a cooperative effort of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks; and Malta Boy Scout Troop 429. An accessible boat dock/pier is located at the west boat launch on Bowdoin Lake. A 0.4-mile accessible loop trail is located at the Display Pond near the Refuge headquarters. The trail features a photo blind, an overlook, and some tables for conducting environmental education activities.

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs and activities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is available to all individuals regardless of physical or mental ability. Dial 7-1-1 for a free connection to the State transfer relay service for TTY and voice calls to and from the speech and hearing impaired. For more information or to address accessibility needs, please contact the Refuge staff at 406 / 654 2863 or the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Equal Opportunity, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Refuge Signs

Please observe these signs and understand their meanings.



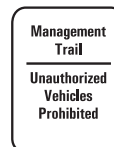
Refuge Boundary



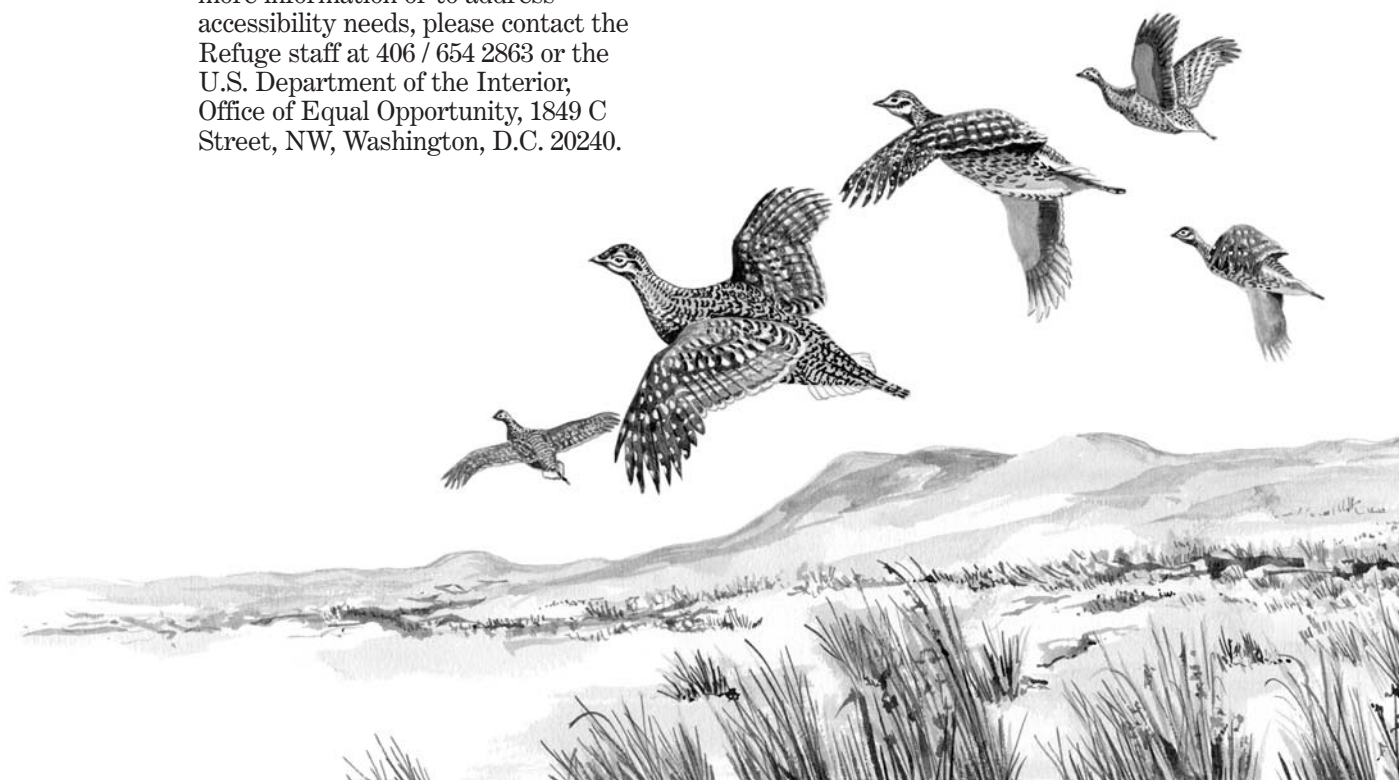
No Hunting Zone –No hunting is allowed in this area

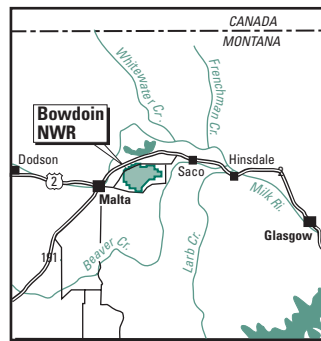
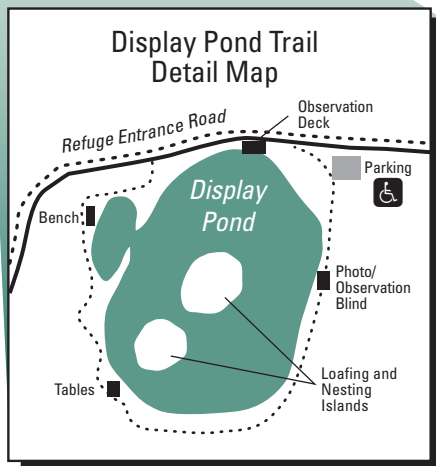
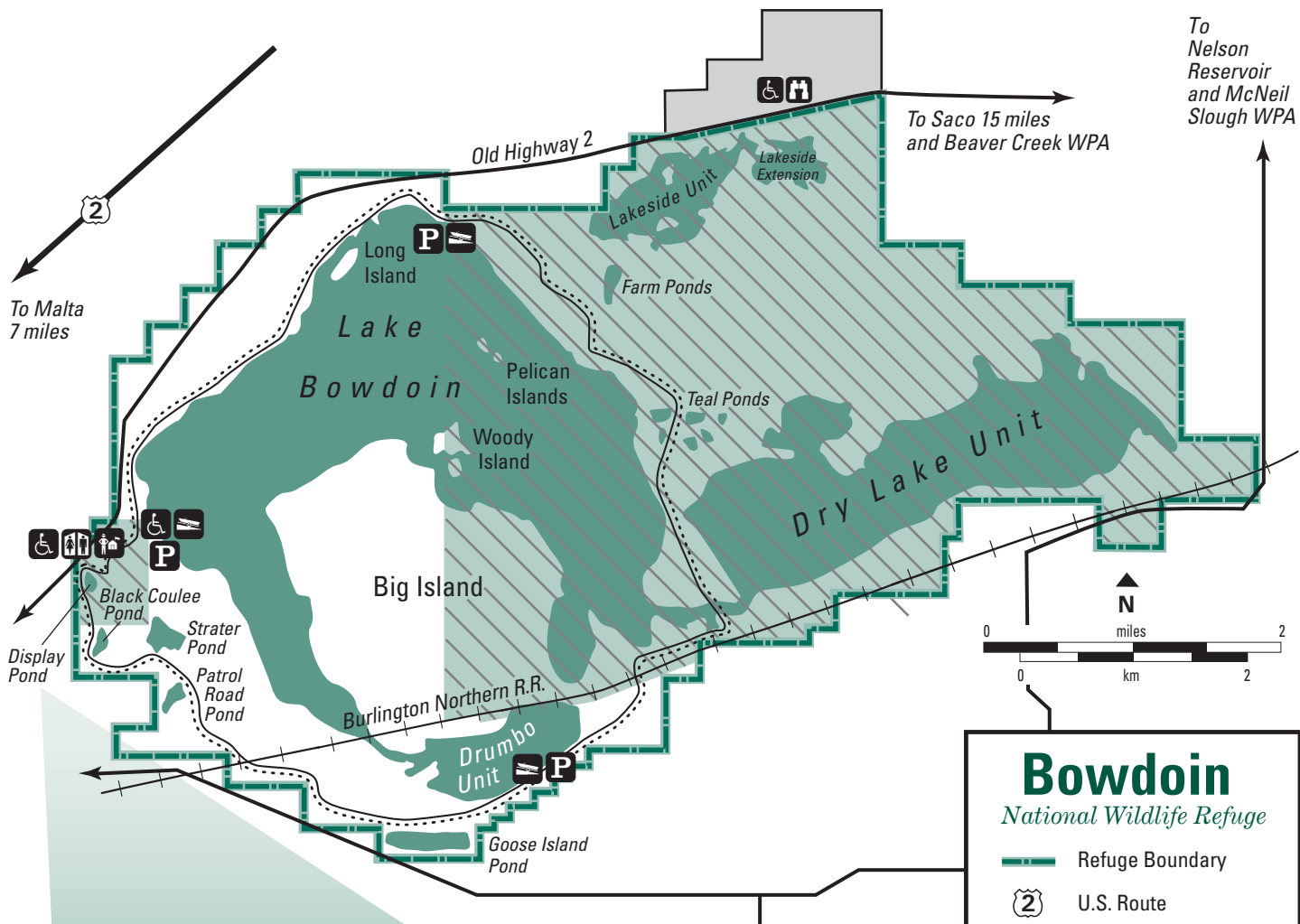


Waterfowl Production Area



Management Trail





Bowdoin

National Wildlife Refuge

- Refuge Boundary
- U.S. Route
- Auto Tour Route
- Accessible Trail
- Pearce WPA
- Closed to Hunting
- Refuge Headquarters
- Parking
- Accessible Rest Room
- Accessible Hunting/Photo Blind
- Boat Ramp
- Accessible Boat Ramp

Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge
HC 65, Box 5700
Malta, MT 59538
406 / 654 2863
406 / 654 2866 fax
bowdoin@fws.gov
<http://bowdoin.fws.gov>

For State transfer relay service
TTY / Voice: 711

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
<http://www.fws.gov>

For Refuge Information
1 800 / 344 WILD

September 2003

